

# Welcome

**1st Sunday after Christmas**

December 26, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion



## **UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused*

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146  
(704) 636-5092 ~ <http://ulcsalisbury.org>

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Wexford Carol Krug

Belles and Beaus

*The Altar Candles are lit at this time during the Prelude.*

*The minister leads the congregation in the invocation.*

*Please stand as able and turn to face the cross.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19)

C **Amen**

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22-23)

C **Amen**

HYMN Joy to the World LBW# 39

### GREETING

*The minister greets the congregation.*

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

## SALUTATION (2 Timothy 4:22)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*We read scripture from the Old Testament, Apostolic Letters and the Gospels because faith comes from hearing. (Romans 10:17)*

## FIRST LESSON: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, <sup>11</sup>“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord’s. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

*Please stand as you are able.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Let Our Gladness Have No End

3 Into flesh is made the Word. Hallelujah!  
He, our refuge and our Lord. Hallelujah! *Refrain*

*Refrain:* On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, {Joseph and Mary} brought {Jesus} up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is



THE PRAYERS (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

P Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

THE PEACE (John 20:19)

*In an attempt to be vigilant and responsible, please use Hand Sanitizers provided at each entrance. Please refrain from shaking hands and reserve a little space between one another. Nods, elbows, or gentle pat on the shoulders, etc., are welcome!*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19)

*The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Lutheridge Scholarship Fund. During the month of December, the Benevolence focus is on India Transformed and Spiritual Orphans Network. If you wish for your giving to go there please specify accordingly.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

OFFERTORY HYMN                      The First Noel

5        Then entered in those wise men three,  
          full rev'rently upon their knee,  
          and offered there in his presence  
          their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



COMMUNION (Mark 14:23)

*As the minister gives the bread and wine, and says these words to each communicant:*

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say:* Amen

*At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.*

AGNUS DEI

Away in a Manger

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LBW# 198

*Please stand as you are able.*

*After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his  
grace.

C **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

PRAYER

*The following or a similar post-communion prayer is said.*

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us  
through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you  
would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love  
toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

**BENEDICTION** (Numbers 6:22-27)

*The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C** **Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

LBW# 70

**THE SENDING** (Matthew 28:19)

*The minister may dismiss the congregation.*

**P** You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

**C** **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**P** Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

**C** **Amen, amen, amen**

**POSTLUDE**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Staszkeski

**Next Week's Readings (January 2):**  
1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

**THOSE SERVING IN DECEMBER**

**Acolytes:** Jordan and Mallory Eagle

**Altar Guild:** Robyn Arey, Jan Huffman, Mary Hutchens, and Vivian Sprinkle

**Communion Assistants:**  
Vicki Hunter, Franklin Merrell, Doris Shepherd, and Vivian Sprinkle

**Lay Readers:** Robyn Arey

**Ushers:** Larry Barringer, Mike Cauble, Phil Cauble (HU), and Don Davis

**Offering Counting Team:**  
Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, and Vivian Sprinkle

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal  
With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal  
Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (pages 77-97)  
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## “A SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF THE CHURCH SERVICE”

*Welcome to church! As you participate in the church service, we will be providing you with weekly nuggets to help you understand more of what is happening, why it is happening, and some of the special language used in church.*

### **NUGGET #10A: SCRIPTURE READINGS**

The church service follows a simple pattern for the hearing of God’s Word with a reading from the Old Testament, one from an apostle letter (Epistle), and one from a Gospel.

*So faith comes from hearing,, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17*

The **Old Testament** reading teaches us about God’s work in the Old Testament. There, we hear the prophecies of the Messiah who would come that all people might once again be brought back to God.

The **Gradual** is a portion of a psalm or other Scripture passage that provides a response after the Old Testament reading.

The **Epistle** shows how God’s Word accomplishes what it says-creating faith, bestowing forgiveness, strengthening God’s people in their struggles against sin, and enlivening in them the hope of eternal life.

*(“A Simple Explanation of the Church Service”, page 12, Concordia Publishing House, 2018)*

# Christmas Prayer

Let the just rejoice,  
for their justifier is born.  
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,  
For their saviour is born.  
Let the captives rejoice,  
For their Redeemer is born.  
Let slaves rejoice,  
for their Master is born.  
Let free men rejoice,  
For their Liberator is born.  
Let All Christians rejoice,  
For Jesus Christ is born.

St. Augustine of Hippo 354-440AD



#### POINSETTIAS

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Marvin and Phoebe Nunn and in memory of Dollie Shaver by:

Don and Tara Davis

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Kay Edmiston, Sue Eagle, and Jerry Taylor by:

Don and Tara Davis

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Sharon and Sonya Leazer, Karen and Larry Barringer, and Wade Leazer by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Adam Thompson, Dalton and Wyatt Thompson by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of John and Mae Oddie, Pauline Leazer, Pauline Oddie, and John Oddie, Jr. by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Frick, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Merrell, Franz Merrell, and Elaine Honbarrier by:

Frank and Dawn Merrell

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Floyd and Margaret Peeler by:

Steven and Malynda Peeler

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Paul Baker sharing his musical talents during the Advent Season by:

Pastor Heidi Punt

## UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A charter congregation of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

### OUR MISSION:

*Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused*  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

### OUR 2021 VISION: *One Relationship at a Time*

4470 Bringle Ferry Road  
Salisbury, NC 28146

Phone (704) 636-5092 ~ Fax (704) 636-1022

Website: <https://ulcsalisbury.org/>

**OFFICE HOURS:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor - [pastor@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:pastor@ulcsalisbury.org)  
(815) 883-4883

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Music Director: Isaiah Cornelius - [musicdirector@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:musicdirector@ulcsalisbury.org)

Organist: Tina Brown - [organist@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:organist@ulcsalisbury.org)

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - [office@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:office@ulcsalisbury.org)

Facilities Manager: Phil Cauble (704) 213-0646 - [sexton@ulcsalisbury.org](mailto:sexton@ulcsalisbury.org)



# Union News...

## SUNDAY'S ACTIVITIES (DECEMBER 26):

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

**Children and Youth**

**Adult Sunday School Class:** Justice and Development ~ Nahum 1

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

2021 is quickly coming to a close. If you want to have any **special giving credited** to your account before the year ends please do so by **today**.

**OUR LOVE** and **SYMPATHY** is extended to the Family of Grace Morgan on her death, December 21, in their time of grief. The Lord bless her and keep her. The Lord makes his face shine on her and be gracious to her. The Lord look upon her with favor and give her + peace.

### THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Monday, December 27    | The church office is closed. |
| Wednesday, December 29 | 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir      |
| Friday, December 31    | New Year's Eve               |
|                        | The church office is closed. |
|                        | 5:00 p.m. Game Night         |
- Pastor Heidi Punt will be out of the office from Monday, December 27-Sunday, January 2.

*Happy*

*New*

*Year's!*

### NEXT SUNDAY'S ACTIVITIES (JANUARY 2, 2022):

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

**Children and Youth:** A Divided Kingdom ~ 1 Kings 11:9-13, 26-40; 12:1-24

**Adult Sunday School Class:** Justice, Vengeance, and Mercy ~ Genesis 4

10:30 a.m. Worship

A noisy offering of quarters will be collected during the worship service.

*January Messenger available for pick up.*

*Please begin using the 2022 offering envelopes.*

*Please sign up to reserve the Altar Flowers for Sunday, January 2.*

### **How Can You Serve?**

*The Sunday School Classes are serving Autumn Care in January by collecting quarters. Quarters are given as prizes for Bingo.*

*Jars will be available in the Narthex or you can turn them in the Grade School "Joy" classroom (Mrs. Judy Boyd).*

*A noisy offering will be held during worship collecting quarters.*

*Everyone is invited to participate in this month's Sunday School project!*

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### Wednesday, January 5

2:00 p.m. Paint, Draw, and Color

5:30 p.m. Live Nativity Feedback

6:30 p.m. Belles and Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

No Confirmation Class this week.

### Thursday, January 6, Feast of the Epiphany

5:30 p.m. Executive Committee

6:30 p.m. Feast of the Epiphany and Celebration of Lights Service

### Friday, January 7

5:00 p.m. Game Night

### Sunday, January 9, Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

**Children and Youth:** Comfort in Captivity  
Jeremiah 1:4-10; 29:-14; 31:31-34; 33:14-16

**Adult Sunday School Class:** Injustice and Hope ~ Genesis 21:8-21

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

All women are invited to attend a meeting **following worship** on Sunday, January 9. Please bring a bag lunch as we fellowship, discern, and implement a plan on rebooting the Union Women's organization for 2022!

2:00 p.m. Church Council

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Union Youth and Families

*Please sign up to reserve the Altar Flowers for Sunday, January 9.*

*Deadline to turn in information for the 2022 Yearbook. Please see article.*

*With One Voice Setting 4 Liturgy begins*

### Tuesday, January 11

5:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee

6:30 p.m. Acts Bible Study

### Wednesday, January 12

10:00 a.m. Acts Bible Study

2:00 p.m. Lay Ministers

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Belles and Beaus

**Wednesday, January 12** (continued)

**7:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir

**Thursday, January 13**

10:00 a.m. Good Timers

Program: A Return to Your Childhood ~ Pizza for lunch

**Sunday, January 16**

**9:30 a.m.** Sunday School

**Children and Youth:** A Trap and a Release ~ Daniel 6t

**Adult Sunday School Class:** Justice and Fairness ~ Exodus 23:1-12

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

**6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** Union and Salem Youth (Middle/High School) at Union

*Please sign up to reserve the Altar Flowers for Sunday, January 16.*

*The **Benevolence Focus** for the month of **December** is **India Transformed and Spiritual Orphans Network.***

#### **Information....**

- **Renumbered Sunday Worship Offering Envelopes** for Adults, Youth, and Children are available to pick up for 2022 from the front pew in alphabetical order. **Please do not use until January 2, 2022. Please note: 1** Confirmed active members with children and youth will receive a physical envelope. **2** Inactive members will not receive a physical envelope. If during the year upon request a physical envelope will be assigned.
- **2022 Altar Flowers sign up sheet** is available in the Narthex. Please fill out the dates that you would like to reserve. The church office will contact you the week of for bulletin wording
- The church office will begin working on the **2022 Church Yearbook** in January. If you have any changes in your primary contact information (phone, address, email, etc.) please contact the office as soon as possible.
- All organizations, committees, groups, and individuals who are to turn in reports for the **ANNUAL YEARBOOK REPORT**, please do so by **Sunday, January 9**. This is a very important document in reflecting the life of Union's for the past year and for planning activities for the coming year. We want to get it out to the members of the congregation as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **2021 Yearend Statements** will be mailed out at the end of January. Please note that those who have emails the statements will be sent via email.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

**Nursing Home Residents** - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, Ruth Monroe, and Jane Peeler (Autumn Care), Jean Ray (Brookdale), Gene Honbarrier (Liberty Commons), and Betty Denker (Trinity Oaks, Apt. 123B)

**Homebound Members** - Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Zarah Plyler, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** - Kathleen Agner, Melissa Arey, Bill Broadway, Mike Cauble, Linda Hartley, Steve Hutchens, Tommy Kerns, Pat Kluttz, Nancy Kesler, John Knight, Margaret Lyerly, Eric Miller, Donnie Miller, Harold Miller, Dusty Morgan, Gladys Morgan, Kay Morgan, Ruth Myers, Marvin Nunn, Karen Plyler, Ann Tucker, Effie Vellines, and Wayne Vellines.

**Continual Prayer** - Nancy Ballew (mother of Kat Clifton), Evonne Batten (mother of Lisa Morgan), Yvette Bates (co-worker of Karen Barringer), Jimmie Cagle (sister of Pat Kluttz), Vanna Calloway (friend of Kat Clifton), Arnold Cauble, Ophelia Curlee (sister-in-law of Grace Morgan), Karen DeMunbrun (niece of Grace Morgan), Janet Dunning (sister of Doris Shepherd), Martha Eller (friend of Pat Kluttz), June Fraley, Emily Jones (sister of Jimmy Plyler), Amy Lowder Harrison, and Jesse Morgan, Jr., Teresa Kesler, Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Tim MacLeod (uncle of Lisa Morgan), David Mitchell (friend of Pete Nguyen), Della Morgan (mother of Pam Vellines), Dusty Morgan, Sr. Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), Shari Morgan (friend of Jan Huffman), Hong Nguyen (mother of Pete Nguyen), Maggie Safrit Smale (great niece of Effie Vellines), Laura Stokes (friend of Frank and Dawn Merrell), Brinley Rose Upchurch, Union Fire Department #76, and those affected by natural or political disasters.

**Confirmation Students:** Mallory Eagle, Harlem Jones, Micah Nguyen (Faith Coach), Makenzie Poole, Emme Poole, Bailey Wilhelm, and Lucas Wilhelm

*Remember in Prayer List Note: We strive to list the prayer requests and names correctly. Please let us know if a correction is needed or you would like a name added/or returned to the list. If there is a name that can be removed, please contact the church office with that information as well. In an effort to keep the list current, we will update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known prolonged/ongoing issues. Thank you!*

*Red, White, and Carolina Blue ULC T-Shirts with the new logo are available in different sizes from the Narthex for \$13 per t-shirt. First come first serve basis and while supplies last.*

*Please make checks payable to Union Lutheran Church and mark T-shirts on the memo line, on the offering envelope, and place in the offering plate.*